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<p>(54) Title: A METHOD OF MAKING SEMICONDUCTOR COMPONENTS AS WELL AS A SOLAR CELL MADE THEREFROM</p>																																	
<p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>Doped areas on semiconductor components are made by applying to a portion of the surface of a semiconductor substrate an oxide forming mask layer which contains dopant, said semiconductor substrate with the mask layer being heated to a temperature sufficient for diffusion of part of the dopant from the mask layer to the semiconductor substrate, where also undesirable auto-doping of the unprotected surfaces of the semiconductor substrate takes place during the doping process, for which reason the auto-doped areas of the semiconductor substrate are etched away by alkaline etching or plasma etching, said mask layer constituting a protective barrier for the doped areas below the mask layer. In the production of a solar cell with two doped areas of the P and N conductor types, respectively, the distance between the two doped areas may be used for adjusting the gradient of the dark current with a diode biased in the blocking direction.</p>																																	
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Slice of substrate e.g. silicon</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td rowspan="14" style="vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> PROCESS SEQUENCE </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Formation of grooves for contacting</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">101</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Surface etching</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">111</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Texturing</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">112</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Application of resistance reducing layers</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">121</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Application of first dopant source layer</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">122</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Diffusion in inert gas</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">131</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Diffusion with gas phase dopant source</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">132</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Etching of auto-doped areas</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">141</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Application of high-doped layer or pattern on back side</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">151</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Application of optimal shunt layer</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">152</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Application of second dopant source layer</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">153</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Diffusion</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">161</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Etching</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">171</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Contacting</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Slice of substrate e.g. silicon		PROCESS SEQUENCE	Formation of grooves for contacting	101	Surface etching	111	Texturing	112	Application of resistance reducing layers	121	Application of first dopant source layer	122	Diffusion in inert gas	131	Diffusion with gas phase dopant source	132	Etching of auto-doped areas	141	Application of high-doped layer or pattern on back side	151	Application of optimal shunt layer	152	Application of second dopant source layer	153	Diffusion	161	Etching	171	Contacting	
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A method of making semiconductor components as well as a solar cell made therefrom

- 5 The invention concerns a method of making doped areas on semiconductor components, preferably solar cells. The invention additionally concerns a solar cell with incorporated bypass diode, made according to the invention.
- 10 A solar cell basically consists of a thin silicon wafer having a single large area of typically a PN junction which covers one side of the wafer facing the source of light. The photo-excited charge carriers flow to front side metal contact and back side metal contact, re-
- 15 spectively, the former having a geometry such that substantially maximum collection of the charge carriers is accomplished, while the area of the metal contact covering the surface of the cell and thereby blocking the light is minimized. The described solar cell is monofacial, i.e.
- 20 the solar cell is only photo-active with respect to light impinging on the front side of the cells. By additionally providing a thin junction layer on the back side of the cell, this too may be made photo-active to form a bifacial solar cell. The solar cells may either have an intrinsic,
- 25 P or N type substrate, while the doped layer or layers may either be N^+ or P^+ .

It is known in the art to use an oxide containing dopant. The US patent specification 4 101 351 describes how an

30 oxide is grown on a crystal, following which parts of the crystal are exposed again to oxide to define the active areas. This exposure typically takes place by adding to this oxide coated crystal a mask layer resistant to hydrofluoric acid, whereby the oxide layer will be etched away

35 with hydrofluoric acid in the areas where the crystal is not coated with a photo-resist layer. The crystal areas

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thus exposed can then be doped after removal of the photo-resist layer by diffusion of a suitable substance into the crystal at a high temperature, typically in the region about 1000 °C. The dopant source material may be added by
5 depositing on the exposed area of the crystal a layer of e.g. silica containing dopant source material. No undesirable auto-doping will take place since the rest of the crystal is protected with the oxide layer. The oxidation, photo-resist masking, etching and doping process
10 can be repeated several times so that the crystal will have the desired number of doped areas. The stated method has several shortcomings, including e.g. many complicated process steps, such as growing of the oxide on the surface of the crystal, which requires a temperature treatment of
15 about 1000 °C, as well as requirements concerning pure surroundings in either pure oxygen or water vapour. Exposure of parts of the crystal surface normally requires the use of hydrofluoric acid which is an extremely difficult chemical to work with because of its toxicity.

20 The object of the invention is to provide a method of making doped areas on semiconductor components, preferably solar cells.

25 This object is achieved by applying to a portion of the surface of a semiconductor substrate an oxide forming mask layer containing dopant, said semiconductor substrate with applied mask layer being heated to a temperature sufficient for diffusion of part of the dopant from the mask
30 layer to the semiconductor substrate, where also undesirable auto-doping of the naked surface of a semiconductor substrate takes place during the doping process. The auto-doped areas of the semiconductor substrate are etched away e.g. by alkaline etching, including choline,
35 potassium or sodium hydroxide or plasma etching, while the mask layer constitutes a protection barrier for the doped

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areas below the mask layer. This makes the use of photo-resist masking superfluous, since the employed dopant source layers of silica satisfy several functions and thus also serve as a protection barrier for a doped area in subsequent doping processes. Further, the number of high temperature steps is reduced so that it substantially corresponds to the number of doping processes and may even be smaller than this number if a dopant source layer also serving as a barrier to a gas phase source is used. This is a significant advantage since repeated high temperature steps destroy the crystal structure of the wafer.

The invention is characterized by depositing on the semiconductor substrate a dopant source layer which serves as a mask and protective layer when the auto-doped areas are etched away. The invention is unique in that several mutually separated doped areas of different types and concentrations can be produced by just a single high temperature step. Expedient details are defined in claims 2-7. Claims 8 and 10 define a solar cell which is provided with a bypass diode which is directed oppositely to the "photo diode", so that in case of partial shade or breaks the solar cell will serve as conducting diode instead of cutting off the solar cell panel.

The method of making solar cells according to the invention is advantageous in that the use of hydrofluoric acid and photo-resist is avoided completely, so the method is very beneficial to the environment. Furthermore, the number of process steps and of high temperature treatment steps are reduced considerably, which is an advantage also from an economic point of view. Production of solar cells with a reasonable efficiency has previously been confined to laboratory environments because of huge requirements concerning clean environments and the use of many dangerous chemicals as well as advanced equipment. The present

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method does not make the same requirements with respect to the surroundings, and it is therefore extremely suitable for use in enterprises having no access to high technology.

5

The invention will be explained more fully in connection with preferred embodiments with reference to the drawing, in which

10 fig. 1 shows an example of a process diagram for the method of the invention, and

figs. 2-8 schematically show various stages in the production of a preferred embodiment of a bifacial solar cell
15 made according to the process diagram of fig. 1.

Fig. 1 shows a process diagram for the production of solar cells according to the invention. Before doped areas are formed in the substrate wafer, a number of treatment steps
20 known per se is carried out, in which e.g. saw flaws are removed and reflection properties are changed, said step being mentioned only briefly for the sake of completeness. Examples will also be given on how contacting of the finished semiconductor/solar cell can be carried out.

25

The substrate material is selected in response to a requirement made of the finished solar cell and, in the illustrated example, is selected as a silicon substrate of N type with a resistivity of 100 Ω cm. The substrate is a
30 monocrystalline wafer with a (100) orientation and with a thickness before treatment of 350 μ m, the wafer having minor saw flaws in the surface because of sawing from a silicon rod object.

35

Owing to the final contacting a silica net pattern may be printed in step 101 with e.g. a thick film printing

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technique, where a series of contiguous depressions is formed by subsequent etching of the surface with e.g. KOH in step 111, in which contacting can take place so that the active areas will not be shaded. Alternatively, the mentioned depressions may be provided by laser grooving. For bifacial solar cells, the process is performed on both sides of the wafer.

To improve the efficiency of the solar cell, an otherwise known etching may advantageously be performed in step 112 with e.g. a choline solution to provide a pyramidal, textured surface with pyramid peaks of about 5 μm , and then the etching process is stopped like the other etching processes by placing the wafer in a water bath and then drying them, whereby the wafer is purified chemically at the same time. If the surface of the solar cells is not textured, they may alternatively be coated with an anti-reflection layer, which can optionally be combined with one of the layers of dopant source material mentioned later. Anti-reflection layers will usually have a thickness of about $1/4$ wavelength.

Step 121 makes it possible to deposit a thin, patterned silica layer with a very high molar percentage of phosphorous on the front side of the wafer, which can be done by means of a thick film technique. The pattern is adapted so as to cover the depressions formed in substeps 101 and 111 and serves to reduce the contact resistance between the metal contacts and the silicon material. Since the high doping destroys the crystal structure, it is important that the propagation of the pattern is limited to the contact areas. The thickness of the layer may advantageously be restricted to 0.05 μm , and the line width in the pattern will usually be about $1/3$ wider than the above-mentioned depressions. The metal material used for contacting is deposited when the manufacturing process is

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terminated, and on top of the highly doped silicon lines to avoid possible shortcircuit through the faintly doped areas. Furthermore, extra lines - in addition to those used for contacting - may be deposited, which then diminishes the requirement made of the metallized contact net since these extra lines then serve as a supplement to this and also permit light to pass.

In step 122 the silicon wafer 1 shown in fig. 2 is provided with a low-doped silica layer 3, which may be done by any suitable technique, such as a thick film printing technique, spinning, spraying and CVD. Here, however, a spin-on technique is selected, where a silica solution is applied to the wafer 1 under rotation and will thus settle on the surface 2 of the wafer as a thin layer 3. By controlling various parameters, e.g. the rotary speed of the wafer and the viscosity of the silica, the propagation of the layer 3 may be controlled, including its extent on the back side or underside of the wafer. The layer 3 has several functions, but is primarily to serve as a dopant source. In addition, the layer 3 also protects against auto-doping from underlying, high-doped layers or patterns optionally deposited in step 121. It also protects the underlying layer against undesirable impurities and against the effects of subsequent etching. In addition, the layer 3 may be provided in a thickness such that it can serve as an anti-reflection layer on a finished solar cell. Thus, after drying at 100 °C, the layer 3 may have a thickness of 0.15 μm .

To obtain a cell efficiency of the order of 18-25%, the deposition of the layer 3 and the contents of it are quite decisive, since such efficiency is conditional upon a low surface concentration. With a solar cell, the photocurrent (current formed in the PN junction of incident light), is overlaid by an oppositely directed current

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(dark current), for which reason it is attempted to restrict the latter. A considerable cause of great dark current is many recombination centres at the surface (high surface recombination velocity), which may be neutralized
5 by passivating the surface of the cell with a thin SiO_2 layer - a so-called passivation layer, which, however, is active only when the surface concentration of dopant impurities (here phosphorous atoms) is sufficiently low, i.e. less than about $2.5 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

10

After part of the surface 2 on the wafer 1 has been coated with a dopant source layer, the cell is high temperature treated, which takes place in step 131 with a temperature about 1100°C , preferably in an atmosphere of dry nitrogen,
15 and the step has a duration of 15 minutes. The purpose of this treatment is to dope areas on the wafer by means of diffusion from the deposited layer 3 to areas at and directly below the surface of the wafer 1. This step 131 may be adjusted so as to provide effective gettering
20 where undesirable impurities in the wafer are removed. If gettering is not needed, the high temperature step 131 may be prolonged and step 132 be omitted. Gas flow of pure nitrogen is used (without presence of oxygen) to avoid formation of an SiO_2 mask layer on the back side of the
25 cell, which would otherwise prevent diffusion of gas-phase phosphorous from a POCl_3 source in step 132.

Formation of the doped junction area 4 shown in fig. 3, where the phosphorous particles used for formation of an
30 N area come from the silica layer deposited in step 122, takes place in step 131, where the silica layer 3 is densified additionally to provide a masking effect on the front side against undesirable ingress of a large number of phosphorous atoms in step 132. The invention is unique
35 in that several mutually separated doped areas of different types and concentrations can be produced in just a

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single high temperature step.

At the transition to step 132 the temperature of 1100 °C is maintained while the wafers are moved to another zone in the furnace, where the atmosphere contains oxygen and a carrier gas from the POCl_3 source. This part of the high temperature treatment takes 15 minutes and is terminated with slow cooling during which the POCl_3 source is disconnected. The slow cooling is necessary to derive full benefit from the gettering process. Furthermore, rapid cooling is inexpedient with respect to maintaining the crystal structure since crystal flaws may occur, which reduces the diffusion length of the minority charge carriers and thereby the efficiency of the cell. It is thus essential that steps 131 and 132 take place in the same diffusion chamber or furnace without intermediate cooling and heating. New crystal flaws occur for each cooling and heating. The 1100 °C may be varied within wide limits, but is selected as a typical example for clarity.

20

As will be seen in fig. 3, a doped area 5 will be formed from the gase phase source, on which an oxide layer 6 is formed during diffusion.

25

During diffusion a strongly doped phosphorous silica layer is formed over the back side in particular, which, however, is removed by the etching in step 141. A diffused layer may be characterized by means of the parameters junction depth and surface resistance (ohm per area). The junction depth is the distance from the surface to the point where the concentration of a first type of impurities is equal to the concentration of a second type of impurities in the substrate, i.e. where there is electrical balance between the P and the N type impurities, also called acceptor atoms and donor atoms, respectively.

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Etching in step 141 may advantageously be performed with choline, whereby the thin phosphorous oxide layer 6 of the back side is etched away so that the impurities embedded therein are removed together with the outermost 5 μm silicon. After cessation of etching, the silica layer of the front side is likewise reduced and now has a thickness of about 0.1 μm . Etching may advantageously be selective so that the pyramid structure is maintained, but this involves the risk that the texturing will not be nearly as uniform as prior to etching, since some of the pyramids are etched more rapidly than others. The pyramids on the back side will be 5 μm higher than the pyramid on the front side after etching. The etching rate is many times greater in the (100) direction in relation to the (111) direction in particular, and it is therefore important to ensure that the etching depth (here 5 μm) is greater than the penetration depth in the back side (here 3 μm) of the phosphorous atoms from the gas phase external source in step 132.

Like in step 121, a silica layer with a very high molar percentage of boron can now be deposited on the back side of the wafer in step 151, which can take place by means of a thick film printing technique. The thickness of the layer is 0.1 μm after drying at 150 °C, and in addition to being a dopant source for the high-doped contact area it also serves an additional protection mask against ingress of undesirable metal material. Otherwise, the pattern corresponds to the pattern used in step 121 and covers, in the same manner, the contacting grooves formed in step 101.

If the diode is to be provided with a bypass diode mentioned later, the back side is provided along the edge with a silica layer with a high molar percentage of phosphorous, which can expediently take place by means of a

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thick film technique, which is effected in step 152. Then a silica layer 9 (fig. 5) with a low molar percentage is deposited on the back side, which takes place in step 153, and this can expediently be effected by a thick film printing technique. The layer 9 (fig. 5) covers the entire back side except an annular area along the edge of the wafer. The thickness of the layer is about $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ after drying at 100°C . The low molar percentage ensures that the surface concentration does not exceed 8×10^{18} boron atoms per cm^3 outside the contact area. The concentration of boron is higher than the previously mentioned concentration of phosphorous, the reason being that boron diffuses more slowly than phosphorous and that the concentration must be increased to obtain the same low surface resistance. In addition, it should be considered that in the high temperature treatment in step 161 phosphorous penetrates deeper down into the wafer through diffusion. A solution to this problem is to begin by depositing a boron layer (steps 121-122) and then deposit a phosphorous layer (steps 151-153).

The diffusion in step 161 takes place at 1000°C in a dry atmosphere of nitrogen and oxygen for 30 minutes. The high temperature step is terminated with a very slow cooling in an oxygen-rich atmosphere to form an $0.01 \mu\text{m}$ thick surface passivation layer, which takes place best by dry oxidation. It should be noted that the oxide grows at the surface of the silicon crystal and not on the doped silica layers. Cooling is very important here, and the best result is obtained with a very slow cooling (about $2^\circ\text{C}/\text{minute}$).

In step 161, boron penetrates from the silica layer 9 into the wafer in an area 10 directly below the silica layer 9. In the naked area between the two silica layers autodoping of the area 11 will take place, and an oxide 12

- 11 -

will be formed on top of this. The doped area 4 will propagate slightly during the diffusion process.

5 It will be seen in fig. 7 how etching in step 171 removes the auto-doped area 11 and the oxide 12 formed thereon. Etching is performed with a hot choline solution so that 2 μm silicon is removed from the surface in the area between the silica layers. During the etching process the thickness of the silica layers 3 and 10 is reduced to 10 0.01 μm to make it possible to apply a better number of reflection layers in the subsequent steps. The silica layer may be etched away advantageously because in this case it mainly consists of SiO_2 which has a lower index of refraction (typically 1.45). With a higher index of re- 15 fraction a better anti-reflection layer is obtained. Alternatively, it might have been decided to use TiO_2 with a refractive index 2.1 for the layers 3 and 9 and to maintain this. Additionally, it might have been decided to combine this layer with another anti-reflection layer, 20 e.g. Ta_2O_5 , ZnS or MgF_2 to provide a double layer, which gives a better anti-reflection effect.

Then contacts may be applied in a known manner, which will be known to a skilled person and will therefore not be 25 mentioned in greater detail. The process diagram has been explained with reference to a bifacial solar cell, but may be interrupted after etching in step 141 to provide just a monofacial solar cell which is then ready for contacting.

30 It may thus be said that a plurality of positive effects is obtained by using a silica layer both as a dopant source and as a mask. In the production of a monofacial solar cell one side of the substrate wafer is coated with a silica layer which serves partly as a source material 35 and partly as a mask layer. With a high temperature step atoms from the dopant source diffuse directly into the

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underlying part of the wafer and through the air into the unprotected back side of the wafer in the form of auto-doping. The auto-doped part of the wafer is removed by the subsequent etching, while the silica layer protects the underlying doped area. The wafer can then be contacted and used as a monofacial solar cell.

It will be seen in fig. 8 how the area 11 doped from the gas phase dopant source is not removed completely by the final etching in step 171. Thus, there is formed an annular channel with the junction layer in the bottom provided in step 152. The channel has a width which is expediently greater than the respective penetration depths of the doped areas 4 and 10. The distance λ between the two silica layers 3 and 9 may be used for adjusting the gradient of the dark current with the diode formed by the semiconductor layers biased in the blocking direction, thereby reducing the hotspot risk. The distance λ is decisive for the leakage current between the N^+ and P^+ areas. When the solar cells are thus provided with diode effect, a large solar cell panel will continue to operate even if one or more individual solar cells become defective or are shaded. The mentioned diode effect can be obtained by removing the auto-doped area, mentioned in connection with fig. 6, by selective etching so that the annular channel is exposed to the wafer 1, while there will still be a residual portion of the layer 11 along the edges to the active areas 4 and 10. Since the layer 11 is formed by auto-doping from the source layer 9 and is therefore of the same conductor type as the active area 10, the rest of the layer 11 facing the area 10 will accordingly be considered an integral part of this, while the rest facing the area 4 will be considered a doped area 16 (fig. 8) of a conductor type different from the active area 4. An area 15 of the same conductor type as the area 4 is subsequently contacted with the area 10 in the

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channel to provide a PN or PIN junction. The area 15 may e.g. be formed in connection with contacting and may thus be of aluminium. This semiconductor junction forms a diode which is directed oppositely to the "photo diode" formed
5 by the solar cell and ensures that the panel, in which a solar cell is arranged, continues to operate even if the solar cell is made inoperative, e.g. by break, shade or the like. With a monocrystalline starting material the diode extends transversely to the annular channel, while
10 with a polycrystalline starting material the diode consists of segments transverse to the channel and therefore consists of several diodes connected in parallel.

The source layers have been mentioned as silica layers
15 with boron or phosphorous in the foregoing, but it will be appreciated that the dopant may be selected arbitrarily from e.g. antimony and arsenic. Silica, which usually covers a silicon and oxygen containing material forming
quartz by strong heating and addition of oxygen, may e.g.
20 be replaced by silicon nitride, titanium oxide or another material having the necessary properties as i.a. barrier layers. The starting material in the example previously described was a monocrystalline silica wafer, and this may be replaced by a polycrystalline wafer or even by an
25 amorphous wafer, the material being selected in dependence upon the desired properties of the solar cell.

As will be appreciated from the foregoing, the wafer may be coated with more source layers of different conductor
30 types, which, with common diffusion, serve both as a source layer and as a mask layer against undesirable auto-doping. The layers may be applied in ordinary manner by e.g. CVD, spin-on or a thick film printing technique. It is thus possible to manufacture a bifacial solar cell in a
35 single high temperature step where auto-doped areas are removed by subsequent etching. It will likewise be

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appreciated that the technique outlined here is useful for the production of doped areas for many different semiconductor types, including thyristors. Thus, an arbitrary structure of doped areas may be formed in a semiconductor.

5

The etching agent has been described as an alkaline solution in the foregoing, but the etching step may advantageously be replaced by plasma etching, so that both the diffusion step and the etching step take place in one and the same furnace chamber without the wafers having to be moved between the steps. A significant advantage of this will thus be that the furnace pipe is cleaned during etching, and that the subsequent process steps with water flushing, chemical cleaning and drying are obviated.

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P a t e n t C l a i m s

1. A method of making doped areas on semiconductor components, preferably solar cells, characterized
5 by applying to a portion of the surface of a semiconductor substrate one source layer with a first type of dopant, heating the semiconductor substrate with the source layer to a temperature sufficient for diffusion of part of the
10 dopant from the source layer to the semiconductor substrate, where also undesirable auto-doping of the unprotected surfaces of the semiconductor substrate takes place during the doping process, and etching away the auto-doped areas of the semiconductor substrate, said source layer constituting a protective barrier for the underlying doped
15 areas.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized
i z e d by applying a second source layer with a second
20 type of dopant to another portion of the surface of a semiconductor substrate after etching, heating the semiconductor substrate with applied source layers to a temperature sufficient for diffusion of part of the second type of dopant from the second source layer to the semiconductor substrate, where also undesirable auto-doping of
25 the unprotected surfaces of the semiconductor substrate takes place during the doping process, and etching away the auto-doped areas of the semiconductor substrate, said two source layers constituting a protective barrier for the underlying doped areas.

30 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized
i z e d by applying one or more source layers with dopant in connection with the application of the source layer with dopant and prior to heating.

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4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c t e r-
i z e d in that the semiconductor substrate is
crystalline silicon.
- 5 5. A method according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c t e r-
i z e d in that the source layers containing dopant are
silicas.
- 10 6. A method according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c t e r-
i z e d by selecting the source layers containing dopant
from among the group: TiO , TiO_2 , AlO_2 , SnO_2 , silicon
nitride.
- 15 7. A method according to claims 1-5, c h a r a c t e r-
i z e d by selecting the dopants from among phosphorous,
boron, arsenic and antimony.
- 20 8. A solar cell produced according to the method stated
in claims 1 and 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that it
comprises a wafer (1) of a semiconductor substrate, that
part of one side of the wafer has a first active area (10)
of a first conductor type, that the other side of the
wafer, the edge face of the wafer and the periphery of the
first side of the wafer have a second active area (4) of a
25 second conductor type, and that the two active areas (4,
10) are separated by a distance λ .
- 30 9. A solar cell according to claim 8, c h a r a c t e r-
i z e d in that the active areas (4, 10) are coated with
an anti-reflection layer.
- 35 10. A solar cell according to claim 8 or 9, c h a r a c-
t e r i z e d in that the area between the first (10) and
the second (4) active areas includes a third active area
(15) of the second conductor type with connection to the
first active area (10) and a fourth active area (16) of a

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first conductor type with connection to the second active area (4), to provide an oppositely directed PN junction in relation to the PN junction formed by the first and the second active areas (4, 10).

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Slice of substrate e.g. silicon		PROCESS SEQUENCE 1/3
Formation of grooves for contacting	101	
Surface etching	111	
Texturing	112	
Application of resistance reducing layers	121	
Application of first dopant source layer	122	
Diffusion in inert gas	131	
Diffusion with gas phase dopant source	132	
Etching of auto-doped areas	141	
Application of high-doped layer or pattern on back side	151	
Application of optimal shunt layer	152	
Application of second dopant source layer	153	
Diffusion	161	
Etching	171	
Contacting		

FIG.1

2/3

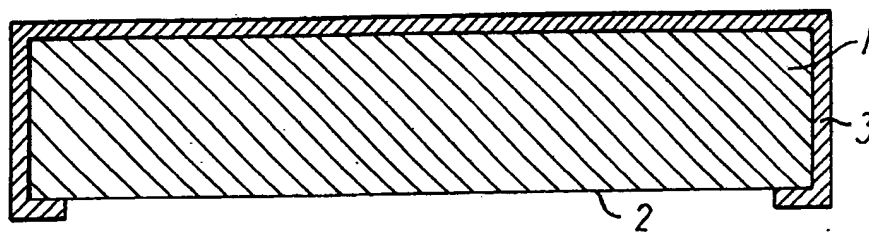


FIG. 2

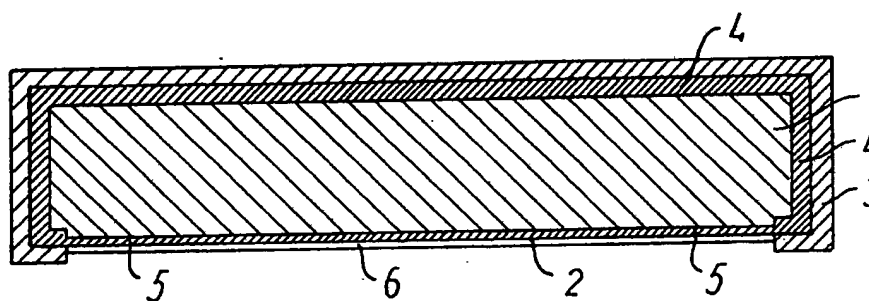


FIG. 3

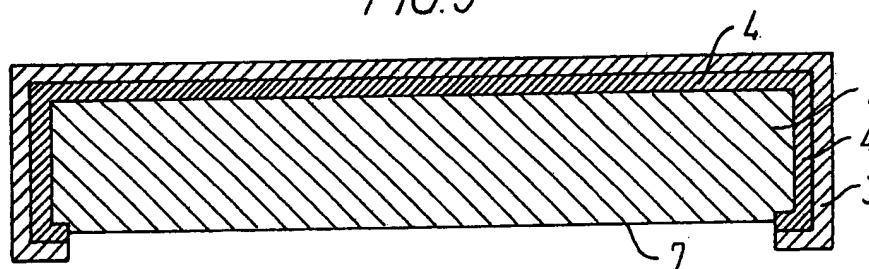


FIG. 4

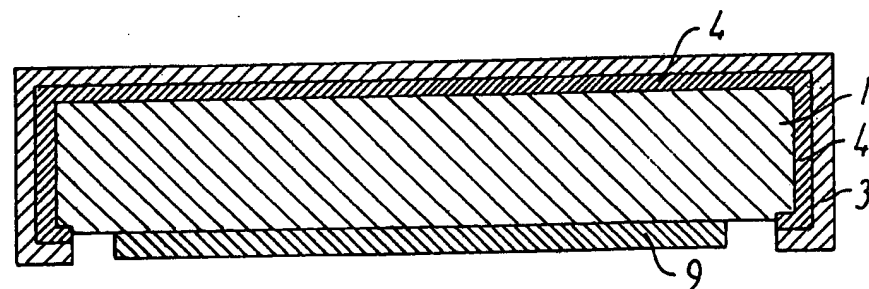


FIG. 5

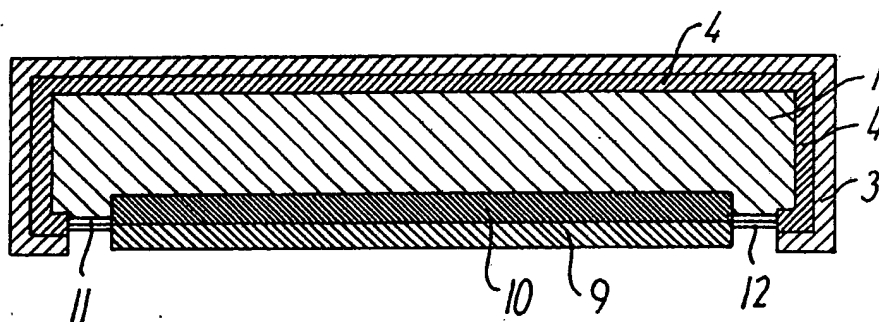


FIG. 6

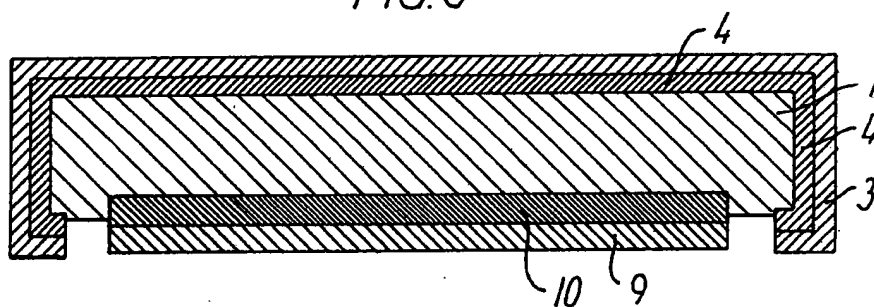


FIG. 7

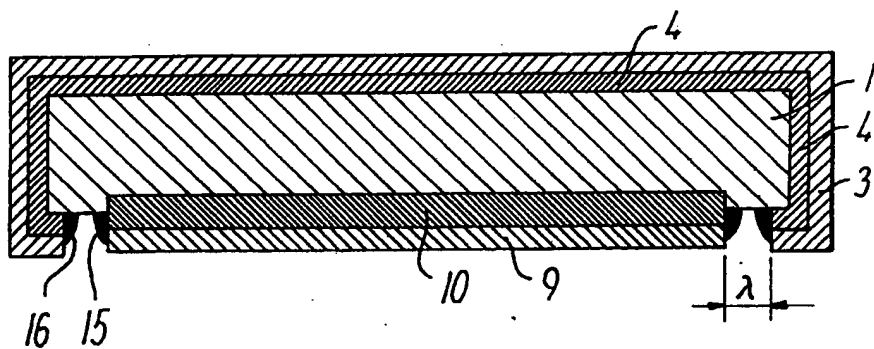


FIG. 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/DK 91/00144

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶ According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC5: H 01 L 31/06, 21/225																							
II. FIELDS SEARCHED <div style="text-align: center;">Minimum Documentation Searched⁷</div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Classification System</td> <td style="border: none;">Classification Symbols</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; height: 40px; vertical-align: bottom;">IPC5</td> <td style="border: none; vertical-align: bottom;">H 01 L</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched⁸</div>			Classification System	Classification Symbols	IPC5	H 01 L																	
Classification System	Classification Symbols																						
IPC5	H 01 L																						
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above																							
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Category[*]</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Citation of Document,¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages¹²</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Relevant to Claim No.¹³</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>US, A, 2794846 (C.S. FULLER) 4 June 1957, see column 4, line 48 - column 5, line 28; figures 7,8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td>US, A, 3767485 (A.N. SAHAGUN) 23 October 1973, see the whole document</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td>US, A, 3990100 (T. MAMINE ET AL) 2 November 1976, see the whole document</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td>US, A, 4101351 (P.L. SHAN ET AL) 18 July 1978, see the whole document</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,8,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-----</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category [*]	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³	X	US, A, 2794846 (C.S. FULLER) 4 June 1957, see column 4, line 48 - column 5, line 28; figures 7,8	8	A	--	1	A	US, A, 3767485 (A.N. SAHAGUN) 23 October 1973, see the whole document	1	A	US, A, 3990100 (T. MAMINE ET AL) 2 November 1976, see the whole document	8,9	A	US, A, 4101351 (P.L. SHAN ET AL) 18 July 1978, see the whole document	1,8,9		-----	
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>[*] Special categories of cited documents:¹⁰</p> <p>^{"A"} document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>^{"E"} earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>^{"L"} document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>^{"O"} document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>^{"P"} document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>^{"T"} later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>^{"X"} document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>^{"Y"} document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>^{"&"} document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>																							
IV. CERTIFICATION <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 16th September 1991 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 1991 -09- 18 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"> International Searching Authority <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE </div> </td> <td style="border: none;"> Signature of Authorized Officer STIG EDHOBORG </td> </tr> </table>			Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 16th September 1991	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 1991 -09- 18	International Searching Authority <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE </div>	Signature of Authorized Officer STIG EDHOBORG																	
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**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/DK 91/00144**

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
The members are as contained in the Swedish Patent Office EDP file on **91-08-30**
The Swedish Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 2794846	57-06-04	BE-A- 548647	00-00-00
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		DE-B- 1046785	00-00-00
		FR-A- 1154322	00-00-00
		GB-A- 816799	00-00-00
		NL-C- 99619	00-00-00
		NL-A- 207969	00-00-00
		US-A- 2794322	00-00-00

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		SE-B-C- 405776	78-12-27
		SE-A- 7511249	76-04-12

US-A- 4101351	78-07-18	NONE	